

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 00750 241933Z
ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3284

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONTEVIDEO 0750

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OAS, TECH, UY
SUBJ: TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION: OAS TECHNOLOGY
EXPERTS WORKING GROUP MEETING PREPARATION

REF: MONTEVIDEO 0067

1. SUMMARY: GOU HAS NOT YET FORMALLY NAMED DELEGATION TO OAS
TEWG MEETING ALTHOUGH GENERAL INTEREST IN THE MEETING EXISTS.
END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS ON MARCH MEETING OF OAS
TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS WORKING GROUP. APPROACHES TO GOU IN
CONJUNCTION WITH VISIT OF SCIENCE ATTACHE FROM BUENOS
AIRES PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(A) DR. JORGE ALVAREZ OLLONIEGO - PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY'S
CONICYT (COMISION NACIONAL DE INVESTIGACIONES
CIENTIFICAS Y TECNICAS) AND DELEGATE TO MEETINGS
DEALING WITH TECHNOLOGY SUBJECTS OVER RECENT YEARS
REPORTS URUGUAYAN DELEGATION IS NOT YET NAMED.
INTEREST RESIDES IN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND IN
PLANNING SECRETARIAL, BUT LESS IN FOREIGN
MINISTRY. (EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWED UP WITH LOW-KEY
APPROACHES TO BOTH OFFICES EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE
OF MEETING AND NEED FOR QUALIFIED DELEGATION.)

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ALVAREZ REPORTS HAVING BEEN CALLED BY OAS
SECRETARY-GENERAL ALEJANDRO ORFILA DURING HIS
RECENT VISIT HERE TO EMPHASIZE IMPORT OF THE
MEETING.

(B) ON SUBSTANCE OF MEETING, ALVAREZ SEES SOME FORM
OF COOPERATION AMONG SMALLER COUNTRIES IN POOLING
SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AND STUDIES AS A MEANS OF

DIMINISHING THEIR STRONG DEPENDENCE OF NEIGHBORING, MORE TECHNICALLY ADVANCED COUNTRIES SUCH AS BRAZIL AND MEXICO. THIS SEEMS TO TAKE THE FORM OF AN INSTITUTE OR SOME "NETWORK" OF SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL TIES PROVIDING FOR (-) A DIVISION OF LABOR AND (2) SOME COMPETENT INFORMATION/CONTACT BROKERAGE AGENCY TO SERVE ALL. PROPOSAL SEEMS NOT TO HAVE TAKEN ON MORE SPECIFIC CONTENT.

(C) ALVAREZ SEES THE MEETING AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOLID COOPERATION ON A RELATIVELY LESS CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT WITH THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND, AS SUCH, WELL TIMED.

COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTRY EARLIER INDICATED ALVAREZ WOULD PROBABLY REPRESENT URUGUAY AT TEWG MEETING, BUT AT THE MOMENT MORE INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT SEEMS TO RESIDE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, IN SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC DEPENDENCIES, THAN IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO DIRECT GOU ATTENTION TO TEWG MEETING.
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